

## SPRINKLER SYSTEMS

It is necessary to winterize all irrigation systems by shutting down the system at the "stop and waste valve" to release pressure in the pipes and drain the water from the system to protect any components that could freeze. Failure to drain the system usually results in broken sprinkler lines and flooded yard areas. By taking a little time this Fall and winterizing and shutting off your stop and waste you can save very costly repairs.

Locate stop and waste valve, which is generally located on the service line between the water meter and the house. Once the system has been shut down, drain each sprinkler line. Some systems have drain valves that can be opened to drain the system, or it may be necessary to blow out the system using compressed air (You may wish to consult an irrigation professional for this service).

If your system is automated and has an electric controller it needs to be set to the "Off" position for the winter

When spring arrives inspect the sprinkler system by checking the sprinkler control valves, sprinkler heads and emitters. Make sure they are not cracked or broken.



SANDY CITY DEPARTMENT  
OF PUBLIC UTILITIES



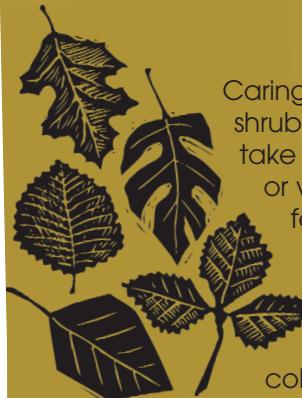
## FALL/WINTER SPRINKLER SYSTEM AND GARDEN CARE



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## TREES



Caring for your trees and shrubs in winter doesn't take an awful lot of time or work, but there are a few things you should know and do that will keep your trees alive and healthy thru the cold months of winter.

Even native trees and

shrubs won't mind a little pampering to get them thru the cold inversion days of January.

Trees set themselves up for the winter by a hardening off process where they decrease the amount of water in their tissues to prevent internal freezing and cell damage. Irrigation timers should be slowly turned down as cold weather approaches to help trees go to bed for the winter.

Put a few inches of mulch around the base of trees to insulate their roots from the cold, especially new trees. For tree species with thin bark, including most maple species, screening their trunks on the south and west exposures can prevent the quick thawing and freezing that occurs on sunny winter days that damage the cells in their bark. This sunscald can be very damaging to newly planted maples and can severely wound the trunk of the tree.

Knock the snow off the branches of your trees when it snows heavily.

Wrapping upright Junipers and Arborvitae with burlap tree wrap will help them maintain their conical form throughout the winter and keep their branches from drooping and spreading when it snows heavily.

## PLANTS/FLOWERS

Winter bringing freezing temperatures in Utah, so it is necessary to take extra care of our plants, flowers and lawns. The following tips will assist in maintaining your plants, flowers and lawn.

Next to spring, fall is the best time to plant perennials in the garden.

Prepare planting beds for spring planting by: dig in generous amounts of organic compost, leave soil rough enough so it will absorb winter moisture.

Cut back perennials such as day lily, phlox, aster and veronica after first hard freeze leaving 2" stubs above the ground and divide rhubarb after first killing freeze.

Spread at least a 2" fresh layer of organic mulch around all perennials to conserve moisture, protect from dry winds, and insulate roots from cold winter.

Bed down your perennials in preparation for the upcoming winter by picking up and disposing of dead or diseased branches, foliage, and spent flowers.

Divide and transplant spring blooming perennials in early autumn water well. Pay special attention to plants growing under eaves and in containers. Water when temperatures stay above freezing. Check for garden dry spots.

Dig and store summer bulbs (canna, dahlias, gladiolas).

Plant pansies to provide winter and spring color.



## LAWNS

- ✓ Seed or sod your lawn area
- ✓ Fertilize lawns mid October through first of November
- ✓ Decrease the amount and frequency of watering but maintain an adequate amount of moisture until the fall rains take over.
- ✓ Aerate lawns
- ✓ Groom lawns, rake up fallen leaves

Before charging the sprinkler system, remove the last sprinkler head in each line or open the drain valve and let the water run for a few minutes to flush out any debris.

When the sprinkler system has been flushed reinstall the sprinkler head or close the drain valve and check the yard for wet spots indicating that a line may be cracked.

Once the system has been checked, look at the irrigation controller and set for the proper duration, time and date, and you're ready for summer.

As the summer weather warms you may have to reset the station timing to increase watering time and as the weather cools in the fall you can cut back on watering time to avoid wasting water.

